

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NIC-01 EB-11 GAC-01

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 ADP-00 /099 W

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R 161500 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6208

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 2152

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR YONUS

SUBJ: MEDIA COVERAGE REPORT: WATERGATE

1. ALL YUGOSLAV MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO WATERGATE IN PAST WEEKS. MOSTLY WIRE SERVICE REPORTS CARRIED INITIALLY INSIDE PAGES MAJOR DAILIES, MOVED TO FRONT PAGES IN WAKE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 30 SPEECH. COVERAGE FREQUENTLY CITES US PRESS REPORTS AND TENDS TO BE STRAIGHTFORWARD WITH NO EDITS OR COMMENTARY THUS FAR, ALTHOUGH SOME EDITORIALIZING HAS TAKEN PLACE, REFLECTING MILD YUGOSLAV CONCERN THAT AFFAIR MAY IMPACT ADVERSELY ON US FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY US/ USSR DETENTE INITIATIVES. THUS, RED TANJUG CARRIED FULL NYTIMES EDIT ( MAY 11) WHICH SAID " SOVIET LEADERS ARE USING NIXON'S TROUBLES BECAUSE OF WATERGATE AFFAIR, DESIRING TO GAIN ADVANTAGE FROM CONTACTS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF US."

2. BORBA ( MAY 14), P.3, ARTICLE ON US AND WESTERN EUROPE BY VLADO TESLIC COMMENTS THAT EVEN KISSINGER'S " ENGAGEMENT IN SIGNIFICANT MISSIONS" FAILS TO HELP " NIXON HEAL WATERGATE WOUNDS." ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT UNTIL NOW PRESIDENT HAS " FOUND SOLUTIONS AT FOREIGN POLICY LEVEL AND WAYS OUT OF SOME DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES," BUT FAILURE AT FOREIGN POLICY LEVEL MIGHT HAVE " BY FAR GREATER CONSEQUENCES BOTH FOR PRESIDENT

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NIXON AND AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY THAN ( DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

ARISING) FROM SCANDALOUS DISCLOSURES SUCH AS WATERGATE."

3. POLITIKA'S US CORRESPONDENT, JURI GUSTINIC, HAS WRITTEN MORE EXTENSIVELY ON WATERGATE THAN ANY OTHER YUGOSLAV REPORTER AND FREQUENTLY PARALLELS US PRESS COVERAGE OF AFFAIR. IN MAY 15 ISSUE, FRONT PAGE, HE CONNECTS WATERGATE WITH FORTHCOMING BREZHNEV VISIT TO US, CITING " STRATEGIC CHARACTER OF MEETING" AND US PRESS MISTAKEN PREDICTIONS THAT WATERGATE WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT IF NOT ACTUALLY FORCE CANCELLATION OF VISIT. WRITER NOTES SOVIETS ANXIOUS CONTINUE DOING BUSINESS WITH NIXON AND THAT USSR ECONOMIC INTEREST AT MOMENT OVERRIDING WATERGATE AND OTHER CONCERNS.  
TOON

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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SECSTATE WASHDC  
USIA  
ZAGREB  
**Type:** TE  
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